

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:

Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist

Scott Kent, Assistant Management Biologist

Phone: (907) 443-5167

Fax: (907) 443-5893

Norton Sound Area Office

Pouch 1148

Nome, AK, 99762

Date Issued: June 24, 2013

Time: 4:15 p.m.

NORTON BAY OPENS TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING JUNE 25

An average to above average run of chum salmon is anticipated this season in Norton Sound Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict. Escapement and subsistence harvest needs are expected to easily be met and additional surplus should be available for commercial harvest. Norton Sound Seafood Products has expressed interest in purchasing salmon in the Norton Bay Subdistrict. The department will allow two 48-hour commercial openings to gauge early chum salmon run strength and provide commercial harvest opportunity.

Beginning 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, Norton Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial salmon fishing for two 48-hour commercial fishing periods from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 25 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 27 and from 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 28 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 30. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Norton Bay Subdistrict encompasses all marine waters east of a line from Bald Head south to Point Dexter. Permit holders are reminded that commercial salmon fishing is prohibited within 500 yards of any anadromous fish stream, including the Koyuk, Inglutalik, and Ungalik Rivers. Any salmon retained for personal use must be recorded in the personal use section at the bottom of fish tickets. Catch statistics from these openings and escapement counts at the Inglutalik River will be evaluated to determine if further commercial openings are warranted.

For any questions please contact Fish & Game in Nome at 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271, or the Unalakleet Fish & Game field office at 624-3921. Good luck, good fishing and be safe.